

MEMORISE THESE FACTS ABOUT TIDES.

1. At the end of a straight reach the tide tends to move straight on towards the outer bend, (known as the bight).
2. To counteract this when driving you need to row towards the inner bend, (known as the point).
3. On the shore surrounding a point, mud or sand is usually found, left there by slack water.
4. Often near a point there is an area of water moving in a direction opposite to that of the main stream.
5. On the ebb this is known as an "up-flush" and is sometimes the most powerful force acting on a swinging vessel.
6. On the shore round the bight, stone is often found washed clean by fast moving water.
7. Where a deep berth exists between two shallow ones, mud is often found even in the bight.
8. The eddying water behind a bridge abutment may be used when driving to turn your barge round quickly.
9. Springs are good tides with high waters above average and low waters below average. (Range about 22 feet).
10. Springs occur when H.W. at London Bridge is between 1 o'clock and 5 o'clock, with 3 o'clock a likely best.
11. Springs occur in groups a fortnight apart, alternating with neaps also a fortnight apart.
12. The best Springs may be expected in March and October all over the world.
13. The best Spring in each fortnightly group occurs two days after full moon and two days after new moon.
14. Strong NW gales with low barometric pressure can push a tide up three feet higher than predicted in the tide tables.
15. Heavy land water following lots of rain has little effect on the high water level below London Bridge.
16. The time of High Water at different places is progressively later as you go upstream.
17. When mooring at a deep water berth consider carefully the amount of slack you need to let your barge down.
18. Neaps are poor tides with high waters below average and low waters above average. (Range about 14 feet).
19. Neaps occur when High Water at London Bridge is between 7 o'clock and 11 o'clock with 9 o'clock a likely worst.
20. The worst Neap tide in each fortnightly group occurs two days after each half moon.
21. Strong SW to SE gales can push back a high water three feet lower than the predicted height.
22. Gale force winds in the northern part of the North Sea have much more effect than local London gales.
23. On a Spring the ebb may last as much as seven and a half hours, and the flood as little as five hours.
24. On a Neap, the ebb may last only six hours, and the flood as much as six and a half hours.
25. The speed of the current on a good Spring Ebb rarely exceeds three knots except where it runs through the arch of a bridge, where a pronounced speeding up is experienced.

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